

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017

Administrative Appeals Tribunal

Question No. BE17-103

Senator Macdonald asked the following question on 25 May 2017:

Ms Leathem: I can think of at least one staff member who was, I think, originally a staff member and then was a member for a period of time.

CHAIR: I am going the other way. Have they been members and now are not members but are working for the AAT? For example, have any of you at the table now ever been members of the AAT?

Ms Leathem: No, we have not been, but there may well be people who have previously been members who had subsequently applied and gained employment at the tribunal. I would have to take that on notice.

CHAIR: That was my next question: could you take on notice any people who have been actual members of the AAT—

Ms Leathem: After their term has expired, whether they might work at the tribunal?

CHAIR: Yes, as nonmembers but working at the tribunal.

Ms Leathem: Sure.

CHAIR: What is a reasonable time—five years?

Ms Leathem: Sorry; what do you mean?

CHAIR: Can you go back five years?

Ms Leathem: Oh, go back that long. The difficulty is that the tribunal has only been in existence as a single amalgamated tribunal since July 2015, so we would probably only have human resource records for that long.

CHAIR: Perhaps if you go back to there.

The response to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:

On 25 May 2017, there are eight persons who ceased to be members of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) on or after 1 July 2015 who were employed as staff members of the AAT or as Reviewers in the Immigration Assessment Authority (IAA) under the *Public Service Act 1999*. One person was an ongoing APS employee prior to becoming a member and returned as an APS employee following the expiration of the appointment. The other seven were employed on temporary contracts. Five were working in the AAT and three in the IAA.